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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
PRESS SERVICE

Picture Story No. 47
Release - April 4, 1948

U.S.D.A. PUBLICATIONS ANSWER QUERIES
ON MANY SUBJECTS FROM MANY FARMERS

"How can I make a compost?" "Do termites leave a trail of sawdust?"

"How can I prevent darkening of peaches when preparing them for freezing?"

"Will there be precooked meals in the supermarkets of tomorrow?" "What is the best tree to plant so I can grow my own fence posts?" "Have you conducted experiments dealing with photoperiodism?" "What are the benefits to be gained from pasteurizing milk?" These form a very small cross section of the upwards of 3,500 queries that come in every day to the U. S. Department of Agriculture from people in all walks of life in all parts of the country. As rapidly as possible, the Department prepares bulletins and circulars that give the answers to such questions. It costs much less to mail out a pamphlet than to write a comprehensive letter.

About half the letters coming in to the Department's Office of Information ask for publications by number and title. Nearly all the others can be answered with a Department publication. Some, of course, can be answered only after consultation with a plant, animal, or other scientist.

The progress through the Department of Agriculture and the Government Printing Office of a request for information from a Maryland nurseryman shows the routine worked out for handling the great volume of requests for information on agricultural subjects. Paul Stadler, of Glenmont, who raises a few chickens as a side line, found a neck and eye ailment spreading through his small flock. At once he wrote to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, asking what to do about it. These pictures show where his letter went and how it was answered.

